THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In August 1987, the Government of Assam had informed Central Government that they had identified 500 acres of land in the Napam area near Tezpur for location of the proposed Central University in Assam.

Exploitation of indigenous oil reserves

562. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) how much foreign exchange is being spent at present annually on the import of petroleum products;

(b) how much foreign exchange is required to explore the indigenous reserves to make India self-sufficient in this field;

(c) whether there is any plan for the purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The total foreign exchange to be spent during the year 1990-91 for the import of petroleum products is estimated to be more than Rs. 4500 crores.

(b) to (d) Exploratory efforts made in sedimentary basing of India have resulted in establishing 5.7 billion tonnes of geological reserves of hydrocarbons. In order to further increase the inventory of reserves to 6.14 billion tonnes by the terminal year of the 6th Plan ONGC and OIL propose to undertake an intensive programme of survey and exploration during the 8th Plan period. As the 8th Plan is still to be finalised, the outlays towards the exploration effort of ONGC & OIL are still unknown. The Government is also considering inviting the participation of Indian and international oil companies in the exploration of hydrocarbons in India.

Survey of oil reserves in the Himalayan and the North-Eastern Regions

563. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of petroleum reserves in the Himalayan and North-Eastern Regions of India;

(b) whether complete survey has been undertaken in these regions in this behalf;

(c) the period upto which these reserves are likely to last; and

(d) what would be the exploration cost?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) As a result of the exploratory efforts made by ONGC and OIL geological reserves of 954.47 milion tonnes of oil and 280.83 billion standard cubic meters of gas have been established in the North-Eastern Region. However, in the Himalayan basin no hydrocarbon reserves have yet been established. Having due regard to its prospectivity the exploratory effort in the Himalayan region is continuing.

(c) No, Sir.

(c) After accounting for the recoverable reserves already produced, the balance recoverable reserves of oil are likely to last a little over 20 years, if produced at the current rate.

(d) Exploration cost depends on the cost of Surveys, cost of data processing and interpretation, and exploratory and delineation drilling and